Hazard Communication Standard 29 CFR 1910.1200

Purpose

- To ensure that the hazards of all chemicals produced in or imported into the United States are evaluated
- To ensure that information concerning the hazards of chemicals is transmitted to employers and employees
- To ensure that requirements for hazard communication in occupational settings are consistent nationwide, by preempting any legal requirements of a state, or a political subdivision of a state, pertaining to this subject

Coverage of HCS - Chemicals that are Hazards

- Physical Hazard Any chemical that is
 - A combustible liquid
 - ► A compressed gas
 - Explosive
 - Flammable
 - An organic peroxide
 - An oxidizer
 - Pyrophoric
 - ► Unstable (reactive)
 - Water-reactive
- Health Hazard Any chemical that may produce acute or chronic health effects in exposed employees; examples are
 - ▶ Carcinogens
 - ► Toxic or highly toxic agents
 - Reproductive toxins
 - Irritants
 - Corrosives
 - Sensitizers
 - Hepatotoxins
 - Nephrotoxins
 - Neurotoxins
 - Agents which act on the hematopoietic system
 - Agents which damage the lungs, skin, eyes, or mucous membranes

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Coverage of HCS - Who Has Responsibilities

- Chemical Manufacturers
 - Evaluate hazards of chemicals
 - Provide labels and MSDSs to employers to which they ship chemicals
- Importers and Distributors
 - Provide labels and MSDSs to employers to which they ship chemicals
- Employers that "Use"* Chemicals
 - ► Inventory hazardous chemicals
 - Prepare and implement written program
 - Ensure that all in-plant containers are properly labeled
 - Ensure that MSDSs are obtained for all hazardous chemicals
 - ► Train employees
 - * "Use" means to package, handle, react, or transfer.

Inventory of Hazardous Chemicals

- Include all chemicals that are hazards and have the potential for employee exposure
- Consider chemicals in all physical forms
 - ► Liquids
 - ► Solids
 - ▶ Gases
 - Vapors
 - ▶ Fumes
 - ► Mists
- Identify chemicals in containers, including pipes
- Consider chemicals generated in work operations; for example
 - ▶ Welding fumes
 - ▶ Dusts
 - Exhaust fumes

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Written Hazard Communication Program

- Reflects what you are doing in your workplace - generic plans must be adapted to specific conditions at your facility
- · Includes all of the following
 - The hazardous chemicals present at the site
 - Who is to be responsible for the various aspects of the program in your facility
 - Where written materials will be made available to employees
 - ► How your facility will meet the requirements for
 - Labels and other forms of warning
 - Material safety data sheets
 - Employee information and training

Labels	and Other	Forms	of W	/arning
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- Labels on products shipped by manufacturers, importers, and distributors include
 - ► Identity of the material
 - Appropriate hazard warnings
 - Name and address of the producer or other responsible party
- Labels on in-plant containers of hazardous chemicals include
 - Identity of the material (links the label, the MSDS, and the chemical inventory)
 - Appropriate hazard warnings (e.g., "flammable;" "causes lung damage")
- Limited exemptions to labeling requirements exist for certain in-plant portable containers; see 29 CFR 1910.1200(f)(7)
- Labels must be legible, in English, and prominently displayed

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Material Safety Data Sheets

- Provided by chemical manufacturer, importer, or distributor with first shipment and anytime the information changes
- No specified format; only specific information requirements
- Must be obtained for all hazardous chemicals in the workplace before they are used
- Provide detailed information on each hazardous chemical, including
 - Potential hazardous effects
 - Physical and chemical characteristics
 - Recommendations for appropriate protective measures
- Must be readily accessible to employees when they are in their work areas during their workshifts; for example,
 - Paper copies may be kept in a central location
 - Computerized access may be available through terminals
 - Receiving the information over the phone is not acceptable except under the mobile worksite provision, 29 CFR 1910.1200(g)(9)

Employee Information and Training

- Prior to assignment to work with a hazardous chemical that presents the potential for exposure and whenever the hazard changes
- "Exposure" or "Exposed" means that "an employee is subjected to a hazardous chemical in the course of employment through any route of entry (inhalation, ingestion, skin contact or absorption, etc.) and includes potential (e.g., accidental or possible) exposure"
- Training may be done either by
 - Individual chemicals, or
 - Categories of hazards (e.g., flammability or carcinogenicity)
- Employee information must include
 - Requirements of the Hazard Communication rule
 - Operations in their work area where hazardous chemicals are present
 - Location and availability of the written program, hazardous chemical inventory, and MSDSs
- Employee training must include
 - Methods to detect presence or release of hazardous chemicals
 - Physical and health hazards of chemicals in work area
 - Measures to protect themselves from the hazards
 - ► Details of employer's hazard communication program

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Checklist for Compliance

- ✔ Obtain a copy of the Hazard Communication Standard
- Read and understand the requirements
- Assign responsibility for tasks
- ✔ Prepare an inventory of hazardous chemicals
- ✓ Ensure containers of hazardous chemicals are labeled
- Obtain MSDS for each hazardous chemical
- ✔ Prepare written program
- Make MSDSs available to workers
- Conduct training of workers
- ✓ Establish procedures to maintain current program
- ✓ Establish procedures to evaluate effectiveness